AF/3625

500.37136CX1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants: NAGAI et al.

Serial No.: 09/712,970

Filed: November 16, 2000

For: REPRODUCTION APPARATUS AND REPRODUCTION METHOD OF DIGITAL VIDEO SIGNAL OR AUDIO SIGNAL

Art Unit: 3625

Examiner: N. Rosen

APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 15, 2003

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted on behalf of Appellants in connection with the above-identified application, a Notice of Appeal having been filed on August 15, 2003.

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Hitachi, Ltd., a Japanese corporation, which is the assignee of the present application.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

This Appeal is related to an Appeal in the parent application Serial No. 09/290,251, which application was filed April 13, 1999, and in which a Notice of Appeal was filed February 28, 2002, an Appeal Brief was filed on April 29, 2002, and a Reply Brief filed August 19, 2002. Appellants consider that the aforementioned

Appeal will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-14, the only claims pending on this application, are on appeal and appear in the Appendix hereafter. No claims have been cancelled nor allowed.

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No Amendment has been filed subsequent to the final rejection.

(5) SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for preventing reproduction of a pirated audio or video signal for which copy once was permitted, and which was legally copied once, onto, for example, a DVD-R disk or a DVD-RAM disk which are recordable mediums, but then was further illegally copied from the DVD-R or DVD-RAM disk onto a DVD-ROM disk which is not a recordable medium, but is a medium dedicated to reproduction, as described at pages 2 and 3 of the specification of this application.

Since it is not possible for a signal for which copying once was permitted to legally exist in a DVD-ROM disk, because the signal could not have been recorded directly onto the DVD-ROM disk in that the DVD-ROM disk is not a recordable medium, but rather is a medium dedicated to reproduction, and since, as is known, a DVD-ROM disk, which is a medium dedicated to reproduction, cannot be created by recording a signal directly, but rather is produced by pressing the DVD-ROM disk from a master created by a process which begins with recording a signal, it is apparent that a medium which is dedicated to reproduction and which has recorded thereon a signal for which copying once was permitted is an illegal copy. Thus, as

described in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the specification of this application, according to an aspect of the present invention, by detecting two (2) conditions that both (1) a signal is reproduced from a medium dedicated to reproduction, and (2) the reproduced information identifies that copying once was permitted, stoppage of reproduction is effected since such represents an illegal copy.

Figs. 1-4 of the drawings of this application illustrate different embodiments of a DVD reproduction apparatus in accordance with the present invention. Referring to Fig. 1, for example, there is illustrated a disk 101 in a form of a DVD-ROM, DVD-R or DVD-RAM having video data or the like recorded thereon and video data or audio data having copying permission information superimposed thereon or embedded therein is recorded in the disk. Furthermore, a disk identification code for identifying whether the disk is a disk dedicated for reproduction is added to the video data or audio data. Thus, Fig. 1, for example, illustrates a reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video data and/or audio data recorded thereon in which the video data and/or audio data is generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then has been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium.

An optical pickup 102 detects a signal from the disk 101 which detected signal is supplied via a preamplifier 103 for conducting amplification, wave form equalization and the like on the detected signal to a demodulation circuit 104 which

demodulates data modulated in accordance with the modulation rule and converts a reproduced signal to binary values while conducting bit synchronization and demodulation. A RAM 105 temporarily stores the reproduced data thus demodulated and an error correction circuit 106 conducts error correction processing based upon an error correction code on the data demodulated and stored in the RAM 105. As illustrated in Fig. 1, a detection circuit 107 detects a disk identification code recorded on the disk together with the video data or the like so that a determination of whether the disk is a disk or medium dedicated to reproduction is obtained. Furthermore, a detection circuit 108 detects superimposed copying permission information from the video data such as whether copying consent in the form of whether copying once was permitted. An output controller including form of a disk reproduction stopping circuit 109 generates a disk reproduction stopping signal 114 based upon information of both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction, as determined by the detection circuit 107, and (2) that the reproduced information concerning copying permission stored in the RAM 105 indicates that copying once was permitted as obtained by the detection circuit 108. When these two conditions are met, reproduction is stopped, in accordance with the present invention and reproduction from an illegal or pirated copy is inhibited.

As described and as illustrated in Fig. 1, a single RAM 105 is provided and at least the demodulator 104, the RAM 105, the error corrector 106, the disk identification code detector 107 and the copying permission information detector 108 are interconnected. Moreover, as described at page 5, lines 16-22 of the specification, a single processing device 120 is formed of components 104, 105,

106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114 and 115 and the single processing device 120 may be formed as a single semiconductor chip. Thus, in accordance with the present invention, the aforementioned components are integrated in a single semiconductor device and it is possible to inhibit reproduction of a pirated addition disk which is produced by temporarily recording a video signal or an audio signal from broadcasting which may be permitted to be copied by only one generation onto a DVD-R or DVD-RAM, and then copying the video signal or the audio signal onto a DVD-ROM on the basis of the DVD-R or DVD-RAM.

(6) ISSUES

In the final rejection dated May 15, 2003, the Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz (U.S. Patent 6,209,092) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,699,474). The Examiner also rejected claim 7 as well as claims 13 and 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz (U.S. Patent 6,209,092) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,699,474). Accordingly, an issue on appeal is whether the disclosures of Linnartz and Suzuki et al. actually provide the features contended by the Examiner to be present there in the sense of 35 USC §103, and whether the in combination renders obvious the claimed features of claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 in the sense of 35 USC §103.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-5, 6 and 8-12 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz and Suzuki and further in view of official notice. Thus, the Examiner has recognized that Linnartz and Suzuki taken in combination fail to disclose or teach the recited features of the aforementioned claims with the Examiner apparently contending that it is unnecessary to cite art to show the acknowledged missing features by taking "official notice". Thus, another issue on

appeal is whether or not Linnartz and Suzuki actually provide a disclosure of the features contended by the Examiner to be present therein in the sense of 35 USC §103, whether or not it is proper to avoid citation of art with respect to the acknowledged missing recited features by taking "official notice", and whether or not such proposed combination renders the claimed subject matter of the aforementioned claims obvious in the sense of 35 USC §103.

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

The claims on appeal do not stand or fall together. Appellant's submit that each of claims 1-14 is considered to be separately patentable, and arguments to that effect are presented below in the Section (8) Argument.

(8) ARGUMENT

In the final Office Action dated May 15, 2003, the Examiner rejects all claims under appeal, i.e., claims 1-14, under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz (U.S. Patent 6,209,092) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,699,474) or over the aforementioned combination of references further in view of "official notice".

As to the requirements to support a rejection under 35 USC §103, reference is made to the decision of In re Fine, 5 USPQ 2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988), wherein the court pointed out that the PTO has the burden under '103 to establish a prima facie case of obviousness and can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references. As noted by the court, whether a particular combination might be "obvious to try" is not a legitimate test of patentability and obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed

invention, absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. As further noted by the court, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention.

Furthermore, with regard to the taking of "official notice" reference is made to the decision of In re Lee, 61 USPQ 2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002) wherein the court in reversing an obviousness rejection indicated that deficiencies of the cited references cannot be remedied with conclusions about what is "basic knowledge" or "common knowledge". The court pointed out:

> The Examiner's conclusory statements that "the demonstration mode is just a programmable feature which can be used in many different device[s] for providing automatic introduction by adding the proper programming software" and that "another motivation would be that the automatic demonstration mode is user friendly and it functions as a tutorial" do not adequately address the issue of motivation to combine. This factual question of motivation is immaterial to patentability, and could not be resolved on subjected belief and unknown authority. It is improper, in determining whether a person of ordinary skill would have been led to this combination of references, simply to "[use] that which the inventor taught against its teacher."... Thus, the Board must not only assure that the requisite findings are made, based on evidence of record, but must also explain the reasoning by which the findings are deemed to support the agency's conclusion. (emphasis added)

Also, it is noted that by filing the Notice of Appeal, the taking of "official notice" is considered to be challenged.

In relation to the disclosure of Linnartz, the Examiner contends that this patent discloses:

> Output control means for performing output control of the reproduced data based on the reproduced information concerning copying consent parameters. (Col. 3, lines 17-67; Col. 4, line 58 through Col. 5, line 2; Col. 6, lines 22-45); wherein the output control means stops outputting the data if both (1) the data was reproduced from a medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information concerning copying consent indicates that copying once was permitted (Col. 3, line 17-67; Col. 4, line 58 through Col. 5, line 2; Col. 6, lines 22-24). (emphasis added)

Appellants submit that the Examiner has mischaracterized the disclosure of Linnartz with respect to the conditions (1) and (2) as described by the Examiner as well as in relation to the actually claimed features and Linnartz fails to disclose or teach the stopping of outputting of data when both conditions (1) and (2), as recited in the claims of this application are detected.

Irrespective of the Examiner's position, Appellants submit that proper consideration of the portions of Linnartz referred to by the Examiner only results in a disclosure that Linnartz uses a water mark W, a control ticket or control pattern T, and a medium mark P, representative of the fact that copy permission is presented whether or not it is once permitted or multiple times permitted and that when such copy permission is exhausted as for example by absence of the water mark or the like, copying is no longer permitted. Thus, Appellants submit that while it may be contended that Linnartz stops outputting of data when copying consent for reproduction of data is no longer present and even though such copying consent may have been indicated that "copying once was permitted" in such instance, when copying consent for such additional copy is present, copying is permitted. Thus, in accordance with Linnartz, only after copying consent is no longer present, as in the case that more than the number of permitted copies have been made, is reproduction stopped. Thus, Appellants submit that contrary to the position set forth

by the Examiner, Linnartz does not disclose or teach in the sense of 35 USC §103 that an output control means stops outputting data if the reproduced information concerning copying consent indicates that copying once was permitted corresponding to condition (2), as recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14.

However, assuming arguendo that Linnartz may be considered to provide consideration (2), Appellants submit that there is no disclosure or teaching in Linnartz, in the sense of 35 USC §103, of stopping the outputting of data based upon condition (1) as recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 which provides that reproduction of the error corrected data is stopped if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information ... indicates that copying once was permitted. Appellants submit that irrespective of the contentions by the Examiner, there is no disclosure or teaching in Linnartz that detection of conditions (1) and (2) are required prior to stopping of reproduction.

Appellants submit that there can be no question that Linnartz does not disclose or teach a detection of condition (1) of "the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction" assuming arguendo that Linnartz discloses condition (2), which is contested by Appellants. In this regard, the Examiner recognized that "Linnartz does not disclose ... error-correcting means ..." (emphasis added) such that it is apparent that Linnartz does not disclose or teach error-corrected data. Moreover, while Linnartz in the heading "Description of the Related Art" at col. 1, lines 62-65 indicates that copy bits may indicate that the medium is not a "recordable" disk, Linnartz provides no disclosure or teaching that

the apparatus thereof actually detects the condition "(1) the error corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction" as well as utilizing condition (1) with condition (2), as claimed, for stopping reproduction. That is, each of independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 and therewith the dependent claims require a determination of condition (1) and condition (2) in order to stop reproduction, and Appellants submit that Linnartz fails to disclose or teach a determination of condition (1) as recited in each of the independent claims and also a determination of condition (2) which determination of conditions (1) and (2) are utilized together to stop reproduction. Thus, Appellants submit that each of the independent claims and therewith the dependent claims patentably distinguish over Linnartz in the sense of 35 USC §103 with respect to the aforementioned features and all claims should be considered allowable thereover.

As pointed out above, the Examiner has mischaracterized the disclosure of Linnartz in relation to the claimed invention as set forth in each of the independent claims and the dependent claims thereof. Moreover, the Examiner has recognized that Linnartz does not disclose elements of each of the independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 with regard to the recited features thereof with respect to a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with modulation rule adapted for the recording medium nor the features of a demodulating means, temporal store means, and error correcting means utilized for the outputting of error-corrected data as well as the features of both conditions (1) and (2) being determined to be present and based upon the determination of "error-corrected data" being reproduced. As recognized by the Examiner, such features of the

independent claims are not disclosed or taught by Linnartz in the sense of 35 USC §103 such that Appellants submit that these features of the independent and dependent claims further patentably distinguish over Linnartz in the sense of 35 USC §103.

Based upon the Examiner's recognition that Linnartz does not disclose the aforementioned features the Examiner cites Suzuki et al. contending that "Suzuki teaches demodulating means for demodulating data modulated in accordance with a presumed modulation rule; temporal store means for storing the data demodulated by the demodulating means; and error-correcting means for error-correcting the demodulated data stored in a temporal store means, the error-corrected data being stored in a temporal store means (col. 9, lines 43-50; refer also to Fig. 5)". (emphasis added) Appellants note that irrespective of the disclosure of Suzuki et al., this patent is not directed to the problem of illegal or pirated copying and provides no disclosure or teaching regarding the stopping of outputting of error-corrected data based upon conditions (1) and (2) as recited in each of the independent claims of this application. Therefore, Suzuki et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Linnartz as pointed out above. Accordingly, Appellants submit that each of independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 and the dependent claims patentably distinguish over this proposed combination of references in the sense of 35 USC §103 in that the combination fails to provide stopping of the reproduction of the error-corrected data based upon both conditions (1) and (2) as recited in the independent claims and the dependent claims thereof.

Furthermore, Appellants submit that the proposed combination is improper and represents a hindsight reconstruction attempt utilizing the principle of "obvious

to try" which is no the standard of 35 USC §103. See In re Fine, supra. More particularly, the Examiner contends:

> Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data reproduction and copy protection at the time of Appellant's invention to include demodulating means for the obvious advantage of transforming the data into convenient (digital) form; error-correcting means for the obvious advantage of correcting data error; and temporal store means for the obvious advantage of f manipulating data for demodulation, error-correction, copying consent checking, etc." (emphasis added)

Appellants note that Linnartz apparently utilizes digital data and since Suzuki et al. has a publication date of 1995, several years before the 1997 priority date of Linnartz, Linnartz is assumed to have knowledge of the techniques as disclosed therein and did not consider the same necessary for the system as disclosed in Linnartz. Thus, it is apparent that the Examiner has engaged in a hindsight reconstruction attempt in an attempt to modify Linnartz to provide missing features not disclosed or taught thereby, with the resultant combination also failing to provide the claimed features as set forth in the independent and dependent claims of this application. Thus, Appellants submit that each of independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 which recite both method and apparatus and features different from one another such that the independent claims do not stand or fall together patentably distinguish over this proposed combination of references in the sense of 35 USC §103.

With respect to dependent claims 2-5 as well as independent claim 6 and dependent claims 8-11 as well as independent claim 12, the Examiner recognizes that neither Linnartz nor Suzuki et al. taken alone or in combination disclose the recited features of such claims. With respect to such features, the Examiner takes "official notice" and contends that the recited features are well known and it would be

obvious to utilize the same. Appellants note that claim 2 which depends from claim 1 provides that the temporal store means is a RAM, and claims 3-5 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 2 recite further features in connection with the RAM. For example, claim 3 recites the feature that the demodulating means, the error-correcting means, and the copying consent information reproducing means are connected to the RAM, with claim 4 defining the feature that the RAM is constituted by a single RAM, and claim 5 reciting the feature that the copying consent information reproducing means, the demodulating means, the error-correcting means and the RAM are integrated in a single semiconductor device. Furthermore, independent claim 6 recites the feature that the demodulating means, the temporal store means, the error-correcting means, the copying consent information reproducing means, and the reproduction stopping means are integrated in a single semiconductor device. Dependent claims 8-11 recite features corresponding to claims 2-5, and independent claim 12 recites features corresponding to claim 6. With respect to all of such features, the Examiner contends that the features which are not disclosed by the cited art are patentably distinguishable, are "well known" and it would be obvious to utilize the same. Appellants submit that this position by the Examiner has been rejected by the court In re Lee, supra. Appellants submit that it is improper for the Examiner to recognize the deficiencies of the cited art, and contend that such features are well known and obviously could be provided. Accordingly, Appellants submit that the rejections based upon "official notice" are improper in the manner as set forth by the Examiner and, assuming arguendo that a proper rejection based upon cited art could be formulated, such combination would not provide for a determination of conditions (1) and (2) as recited in each of the

independent claims and therewith the dependent claims of this application. Thus, Appellants submit that all claims patentably distinguish over this proposed combination in the sense of 35 USC §103 and as pointed out above, the claims, as identified recite features different from one another such that the claims do not stand or fall together.

With respect to each of the independent claims, Appellants note that the independent claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 while reciting features in common, as discussed above, recite features different from one another such that these claims do not stand or fall together. Appellants note that claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 are directed to a reproduction apparatus whereas claims 13 and 14 are directed to a method. Independent claims 6 and 12 additionally differ from independent claim 1 in relation to the recited features being integrated into a single semiconductor device which is not disclosed or taught in the cited art, for example. While claims 1 and 6 recite features in a means plus function format, claim 7 recites similar features in a structural format with independent claims 6 and 12 also reciting features in a structural format and reciting the feature of the recited structure being integrated in a single semiconductor device. The method claims of 13 and 14 differ from one another also in terms of recited structure and means plus function format and it is apparent that the independent and dependent claims recite features which differ from one another such that the claims do not stand or fall together.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Appellants submit that Linnartz taken alone or in combination with Suzuki et al. fails to disclose or teach the stopping of outputting of

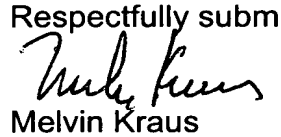
error-corrected data if two (2) conditions are detected, i.e., if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information concerning copying consent stored in the temporal store means, as recited in independent claim 1 and the corresponding features of independent claims 6, 7 and 12-14, irrespective of whether or not "official notice" can be utilized to supply other features not disclosed or taught by Linnartz and Suzuki et al. in the sense of 35 USC §103. Accordingly, the Board is urged to reverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-14 as set forth in the final Office Action dated May 15, 2003.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Appeal Brief fee is submitted herewith.

To the extent necessary, Appellants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 500.37136CX1) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures:
(2) copies of Appeal Brief
APPENDIX

APPENDIX

1. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video data and/or audio data recorded thereon, the video data and/or audio data being generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium, the reproduction apparatus comprising:

demodulating means for demodulating data modulated in accordance with the modulation rule;

temporal store means for storing the data demodulated by the demodulating means;

error-correcting means for error-correcting the demodulated data stored in the temporal store means based on the error correction code, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store means;

reproducing means for reproducing the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data processed by the error-correcting means and stored in the temporal store means; and

output control means for performing output control of the error-corrected data based on the reproduced information concerning copying consent stored in the temporal store means;

wherein the output control means stops outputting the error-corrected data if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information concerning copying consent stored

in the temporal store means indicates that copying once was permitted.

2. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 1, wherein the temporal store means is a RAM.

3. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 2, wherein the demodulating means, the error-correcting means, and the copying consent information reproducing means are connected to the RAM.

4. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 3, wherein the RAM is constituted by a single RAM.

5. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 2, wherein the copying consent information reproducing means, the demodulating means, the error-correcting means, and the RAM are integrated in a single semiconductor device.

6. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video data and/or audio data recorded thereon, the video data and/or audio data being generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium, the reproduction apparatus comprising:

demodulating means for demodulating data modulated in accordance with the modulation rule;

temporal store means for storing the data demodulated by the demodulating means;

error-correcting means for error-correcting the demodulated data stored in the temporal store means based on the error correction code, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store means;

reproducing means for reproducing the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data processed by the error-correcting means and stored in the temporal store means; and

means for stopping reproduction of the error-corrected data in accordance with the information concerning copying consent from the copying consent information reproducing means;

wherein the demodulating means, the temporal store means, the error-correcting means, the copying consent information reproducing means, and the reproduction stopping means are integrated in a single semiconductor device; and

wherein the reproduction stopping means stops reproduction of the error-corrected data if both (lithe error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the information concerning copying consent from the copying consent information reproducing means indicates that copying once was permitted.

7. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video

data and/or audio data recorded thereon, the video data and/or audio data being generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium, the reproduction apparatus comprising:

a demodulator which demodulates data modulated in accordance with the modulation rule;

a temporal store which stores the data demodulated by the demodulator;

an error-corrector which error-corrects the demodulated data stored in the temporal store based on the error correction code, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store;

a reproducer which reproduces the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data processed by the error-corrector and stored in the temporal store; and

an output controller which performs output control of the error-corrected data based on the reproduced information concerning copying consent stored in the temporal store;

wherein the output controller stops outputting the error-corrected data if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information concerning copying consent stored in the temporal store indicates that copying once was permitted.

8. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 7, wherein the temporal store is a RAM.

9. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 8, wherein the demodulator, the error-corrector, and the copying consent information reproducer are connected to the RAM.

10. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 9, wherein the RAM is constituted by a single RAM.

11. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data according to claim 8, wherein the copying consent information reproducer, the demodulator, the error-corrector, and the RAM are integrated in a single semiconductor device.

12. A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video data and/or audio data from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video data and/or audio data recorded thereon, the video data and/or audio data being generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium, the reproduction apparatus comprising:

a demodulator which demodulates data modulated in accordance with the modulation rule;

a temporal store which stores the data demodulated by the demodulator;

an error-corrector which error-corrects the demodulated data stored in the

temporal store based on the error correction code, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store;

a reproducer which reproduces the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data processed by the error-corrector and stored in the temporal store; and

a reproduction stopper which stops reproduction of the error-corrected data in accordance with the information concerning copying consent from the copying consent information reproducer;

wherein the demodulator, the temporal store, the error-corrector, the copying consent information reproducer, and the reproduction stopper are integrated in a single semiconductor device; and

wherein the reproduction stopper stops reproduction of the error-corrected data if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the information concerning copying consent from the copying consent information reproducer indicates that copying once was permitted.

13. A method for reproducing from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video data and/or audio data recorded thereon, the video data and/or audio data being generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium, in a reproduction apparatus including

a demodulator which demodulates data in accordance with the modulation

rule,

a temporal store which stores the data demodulated by the demodulator,

an error-corrector which error-corrects the demodulated data stored in the temporal store based on the error correction code, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store,

a reproducer which reproduces the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data processed by the error-corrector and stored in the temporal store, and

an output controller which performs output control of the error-corrected data,

the method comprising the steps of:

demodulating modulated data by the demodulator;

temporarily storing the demodulated data in the temporal store;

error-correcting the demodulated data stored in the temporal store by the error-corrector, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store;

reproducing the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data stored in the temporal store by the copying consent information reproducer; and

performing output control of the error-corrected data by the output controller in accordance with the information concerning copying consent reproduced by the copying consent information reproducer;

wherein the step of performing output control of the error-corrected data includes the step of stopping outputting the error-corrected data by the output controller if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information concerning copying

consent stored in the temporal store indicates that copying once was permitted.

14. A method for reproducing from a medium dedicated to reproduction and/or a recordable medium having video data and/or audio data recorded thereon, the video data and/or audio data being generated by superimposing information concerning copying consent on a digitized video signal or audio signal which has undergone addition of an error correction code for error correction and then been modulated in accordance with a modulation rule adapted for the recording medium, in a reproduction apparatus including

demodulating means for demodulating data in accordance with the modulation rule,

temporal store means for storing the data demodulated by the demodulating means,

error-correcting means for error-correcting the demodulated data stored in the temporal store means based on the error correction code, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store means,

reproducing means for reproducing the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data processed by the error-correcting means and stored in the temporal store means, and

output control means for performing output control of the error-corrected data,

the method comprising the steps of:

demodulating modulated data by the demodulating means;

temporarily storing the demodulated data in the temporal store means;

error-correcting the demodulated data stored in the temporal store means by

the error-correcting means, the error-corrected data being stored in the temporal store means;

reproducing the superimposed information concerning copying consent from the error-corrected data stored in the temporal store means by the copying consent information reproducing means; and

performing output control of the error-corrected data by the output control means in accordance with the information concerning copying consent reproduced by the copying consent information reproducing means;

wherein the step of performing output control of the error-corrected data includes the step of stopping outputting the error-corrected data by the output control means if both (1) the error-corrected data was reproduced from the medium dedicated to reproduction and (2) the reproduced information concerning copying consent stored in the temporal store means indicates that copying once was permitted.